

Message Text

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45

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 MC-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01 CIEP-02 RSR-01

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P 040729 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7661

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E. O. 11652: N/ A, DECLAS 5/3/75

TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, KS

SUBJECT: KOREAN PURCHASING MISSION TO U. S.

REF: A. STATE 081128; B. SEOUL 2667

FOR COMMERCE

1. IN SEPARATE MEETINGS, COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR AND OTHER EMBOFFS DISCUSSED POSSIBLE DELAY OF PURCHASING MISSION UNTIL SEPTEMBER WITH MINISTRY COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (MCI) ASSISTANT MINISTER SUH YOUNG CHUL AND HIS STAFF AND ADVISORY GROUP FROM THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN KOREA (ACC). BOTH GROUPS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY SUBSTANTIAL DELAY IN MISSION' S DEPARTURE.

2. SUH UNDERLINED DEEP ROKG INTEREST IN REDUCING U. S. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT WITH KOREA. HE POINTED OUT THAT 1973 IMPORT YEAR ALREADY WELL UNDERWAY AND, IF SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON INCREASING IMPORTS FROM U. S. TO BE SHOWN IN 1973, AS ROKG INTENDS, MISSION MUST LEAVE IN JUNE. SEPTEMBER, SUH POINTS OUT, WILL BE TOO LATE TO EFFECT MAJOR SHIFT FROM JAPANESE TO U. S. SUPPLIERS IN THIS CALENDAR YEAR. SUH FURTHER STATED THAT MCI MINISTER LEE NAK SUN IS PERSONALLY COMMITTED TO JUNE DEPARTURE DATE AND '73 IMPROVEMENT IN U. S. - KOREA TRADE

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ACCOUNT.

3. AMERICAN CHAMBER OFFICIALS WERE UNANIMOUS IN URGING THAT MISSION DEPART IN JUNE. REASONS GIVEN WERE THAT DELAY, AFTER MAJOR EFFORTS BY USG AND PRIVATE BUSINESS TO ENCOURAGE SHIFT FROM JAPANESE TO U. S. SOURCES, MIGHT LEAD ROKG TO BELIEVE THAT WE ARE ONLY HALF- HTUATION.

3. AHRAH MAINTAINS ESSENTIALLY EVEN- HANDED COVERAGE OF FIGHTING BETWEEN LEBANESE ARMY AND PALESTINIANS, WHILE AKHBAR AND GUMHURIYYA CONTINUE TO REFLECT SLIGHT PRO- PALESTINIAN BIAS. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN ALL PAPERS IS NEUTRAL, LIMITING ITSELF TO DEPLORING EVENTS " WHICH CAN ONLY DO ARABS DAMAGE" WITHOUT CASTING BLAME ON EITHER SIDE.

4. COMMENT: CAIRO PRESS DOES NOT GIVE SPECIFICS OF SADAT' S CONVERSATION WITH AL- AYYUBI, BUT IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT GOE IS SUFFICIENTLY ALARMED AT REPORTS OF SYRIAN INVOLVEMENT TO ATTEMPT LIMIT IT. WHETHER SADAT' S INTER- VENTION WILL HAVE EFFECT IS ANOTHER QUESTION, BUT FACT THAT AL- ASAD WAS " AWAY FROM THE TELEPHONE" WHEN SADAT CALLED IS NOT AN ENCOURAGING SIGN.
GREENE

CONFIDENTIAL
NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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